

Message Text

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ACTION FBO-08

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P 221900Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5208

UNCLAS BRASILIA 6386

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD, BR

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR SERVICE TECHNICIAN ON EMBASSY EMERGENCY
GENERATORS

1. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THE EMBASSY'S TWO GENERATORS WERE SUPPLIED BY CUSTOM APPLIED POWER CORPORATION OF ALEXANDRIA, VA. IN THE EARLY HOURS OF LAST SATURDAY MORNING, THE GENRATORS FAILED TO ACTIVATE AND A DETAILED INSPECTION REVEALED THAT ONE OF THEM WAS FAILING TO DELIVER THE SPECIFIED VOLTAGE AND THE OTHER KEPT SHUTTING OFF REPEATEDLY AS THOUGH ONE OR MORE OF THE FAIL-SAFE PROTECTIVE MECHANISMS WERE WORKING TO PRECLUDE PROTRACTED OPERATION AND POSSIBLE DAMAGE TO THE UNIT.

2. A SEABEE, WHO HAS HAS CONSIDERABLE PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH GENERATORS, SPENT THE BETTER PART OF MONDAY AND TUESDAY ATTEMPTING TO DIAGNOSE THE CAUSE OF THE PROBLEM AND HAS DETECTED IN ONE OF THE UNITS A REVERSE POLARITY, THE CAUSE OF WHICH WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO ASCERTAIN. BEFORE THIS WAS DETECTED, HOWEVER, A RHEOSTAT WAS BURNED AND THERE IS ALSO APPARENT DAMAGE TO SOME DIODES.

3. THE SEABEE HAS IDENTIFIED THE FOLLOWING LIST OF PARTS DEFINITELY KNOWN TO BE NEEDED IN THE REPAIR OF THE ONE OF THESE UNITS:

- (1) DROOP RHEOSTAT, NO. 0149, SERIES A, 300 VOLT, 50 OHMS
- (2) CF FIELD BRIDGE, DIODES TM 41 OR 368H
- (3) C BRIDGE DIODES TR251R OR IN1194R
- (4) GOVERNOR DUMP SOLENOID, SERIAL NO. A-42505,
CATALOG NO. PV2A1343; MAX PSI 300; 24VDC;

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EQUIP. PORT 125; 12 WATTS

4. IN ENDEAVORING TO TRACE THE CAUSE OF THE REVERSE POLARITY, WE HAVE BEGUN TO DOUBT THE CURRENCY AND ACCURACY OF THE WIRING SCHEMATIC FOR OUR GENERATORS. WE STRONGLY REQUEST THAT A VALID SET BE BROUGHT BY THE TECHNICIAN.

5. IN ADDITION TO THE PROBLEMS IN THE GENERATORS, WE ARE AGAIN HAVING REGULAR DIFFICULTIES WITH THE TRANSFER SWITCH. TWO BASIC PROBLEMS ARE THAT (1) THE MOTORS DO NOT CONSISTENTLY DRIVE THE SWITCH TO THE RESPECTIVE LOCATIONS, AND (2) THE SUBSEQUENT EFFORT TO MOVE THE SWITCH MANUALLY WITH A WRENCH WEAKENS THE SWITCH UNTIL IT ULTIMATELY BREAKS IN SOME KEY PART. IT IS THE EMBASSY'S STRONG RECOMMENDATION THAT, PENDING THE INSTALLATION OF THE NEW POWER PANEL FOR THE NEW BUILDING, THE DEPARTMENT SPECIFY AND PREFERABLY PURCHASE ONE OR TWO DOUBLE-POLE THROW SWITCHES AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE MORE COMPLEX SEMI-AUTOMATIC TRANSFER SWITCHES. WE SIMPLY DO NOT HAVE THE CALIBER OF EXPERTISE OR THE REQUISITE SUPPLY OF SPARE PARTS TO KEEP THE PRESENT TRANSFER SWITCHES IN A REASONABLE STATE OF OPERATION.

6. IN THE LIGHT OF THE FOREGOING, THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED ON AN URGENT BASIS TO ARRANGE FOR A SERVICE MAN FROM CUSTOM APPLIED POWER CORPORATION TO COME TO BRASILIA WITH THE ABOVE-LISTED SPARE PARTS, TEST EQUIPMENT, AND SUCH OTHER SPARE PARTS AS HE MIGHT DEEM USEFUL TO CONDUCT A COMPLETE INSPECTION AND REPAIR OF THE TWO GENERATORS, NEITHER OF WHICH ARE PRESENTLY OPERABLE NOR APPEAR SUSCEPTIBLE TO CONTINUED TROUBLE SHOOTING BY THE EMBASSY STAFF.

CRIMMINS

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